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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.4)*]

72/219. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011, 67/210 of 21 December 2012, 68/212 of 20 December 2013, 69/220 of 19 December 2014, 70/205 of 22 December 2015 and 71/228 of 21 December 2016 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also, in full, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[1] and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention,[2] acknowledging that they are the primary international, intergovernmental forums for negotiating the global response to climate change, expressing determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognizing that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and noting with concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways,

Recalling further the Paris Agreement, which, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, thereof, will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

Acknowledging that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority for developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[2] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

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adverse effects of climate change, and bearing in mind that the provision of scaled-up financial resources should aim to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation,

Welcoming the convening of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, presided over by the Government of Fiji, in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[7] the outcomes of the thirteenth to twenty-second sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the third to twelfth sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,[8] the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016,[9] the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,[10] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[11] the Mauritius Declaration[12] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[13] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[14] the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[15] and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[16]

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[3] Resolution 55/2.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 60/1.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[9] Resolution 70/294, annex.

[10] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

[11] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[12] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[13] Ibid., annex II.

[14] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[15] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[16] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Expressing concern over the findings of the World Meteorological Organization, in its *Greenhouse gas bulletin* of 30 October 2017, which showed that the global average of atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide reached 403.3 parts per million in 2016, the highest such levels in 3 to 5 million years, and that the increase in the annual mean from 2015 to 2016 was 50 per cent above the average growth rate for the past decade,

Taking note of the Green Climate Fund and its successful and timely initial resource mobilization process, making it the largest dedicated climate fund, and its approval of 2.59 billion United States dollars in funding, stressing its goal of ensuring efficient access to its resources through simplified approval procedures and enhancing readiness support, which will help to deliver outcomes in developing countries so as to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help them adapt to the impacts of climate change, and reiterating the objectives and guiding principles of the Fund, including a gender-sensitive approach in its process and operations,

Welcoming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[17]

Recalling the United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017–2030,[18] and acknowledging that all types of forests contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation,

Noting the existing framework on forests under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Taking note of the high-level event on climate change and the sustainable development agenda, held at United Nations Headquarters on 23 March 2017, convened by the President of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly,

Noting the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in

[17] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[18] See resolution 71/285.

Africa,[19] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[20] as appropriate, while respecting their individual mandates, and welcoming in this context the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,[21] as well as the outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity,[22]

Noting also the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to addressing the challenge of, inter alia, climate change, within its mandate and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders,

Recalling its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June, reaffirming in this regard the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of that Conference to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recognizing that, in undertaking its work, the United Nations should promote the protection of the global climate for the well-being of present and future generations of humankind,

Welcoming the adoption, at the Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer,[23] held in Kigali from 10 to 15 October 2016, of the Kigali Amendment[24] to phase down hydrofluorocarbons, welcoming the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol by 23 countries, and encouraging further ratifications as soon as possible,

Noting the contribution of the International Civil Aviation Organization to global efforts to combat climate change, and noting also the contribution of the International Maritime Organization in this regard,

1. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, recognizes the substantial risks posed by climate change to health, and emphasizes in this regard that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent global priority;

2. *Welcomes* the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by the Government of Morocco in Marrakech from 7 to 18 November 2016;

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[19] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[20] *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[21] ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1.

[22] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/25.

[23] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1522, No. 26369.

[24] UNEP/OzL.Pro.28/12, annex I.

3. *Also welcomes* the early entry into force, on 4 November 2016, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[2] and encourages all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[1] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible;

4. *Recalls* that the Paris Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production, and making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development;

5. *Welcomes* the nationally determined contributions submitted to date, and recalls that the regular updating of such contributions should reflect the highest possible level of ambition, in the light of different national circumstances, and should provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding, in accordance with the relevant decisions;

6. *Also welcomes* the call of the Secretary-General for a climate summit to be held in New York in 2019;

7. *Emphasizes* the need for collective efforts to promote sustainable development in its three dimensions in an innovative, coordinated, environmentally sound, open and shared manner;

8. *Reiterates* the call made in the declaration "Our ocean, our future: call for action"[25] for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

9. *Acknowledges* the work undertaken under the auspices of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action,[26] and encourages non-party stakeholders to scale up their efforts to address and respond to climate change;

10. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level meeting during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on the issue of the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[27]

11. *Reiterates* the resolve of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its decision 1/CP.19,[28] to accelerate the full implementation of the decisions constituting the agreed outcome pursuant to its decision 1/CP.13[29] and to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period in order to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts under the Convention by all parties;

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[25] See resolution 71/312, annex.
[26] See FCCC/CP/2016/10/Add.1.
[27] Resolution 70/1.
[28] See FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1.
[29] See FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1.

12. *Welcomes* the acceptance or ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol[30] by 95 countries, and encourages further acceptance or ratifications as soon as possible;

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[31]

14. *Recognizes* the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, and in that regard takes note of decisions 2/CP.19,[28] 2/CP.20[32] and 3/CP.22[33] adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, and decision 1/CP.21,[34] in which the Paris Agreement was adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-first session;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the convening by the Government of Fiji of, and the provision of technical assistance by the Government of Germany to, the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017;

16. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Poland to host the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Katowice, from 3 to 14 December 2018;

17. *Looks forward* to the further implementation of the programme of work under the Paris Agreement, in accordance with relevant decisions by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as to the *Talanoa* (facilitative) dialogue in 2018;

18. *Urges* Member States, taking into account that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by climate change owing to gender inequalities and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods, to promote the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies and to strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources towards achieving the full and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, and stresses the need to address the challenges posed by climate change that affect women and girls in particular;

19. *Endorses* the action plan for integrating sustainable development practices into Secretariat-wide operations and facilities management submitted by the Secretary-General,[35] and requests the Secretary-General to implement his relevant recommendations within existing resources;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;

21. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the work of the

[30] See FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/13/Add.1.
[31] A/72/152, sect. I, and A/72/152/Corr.1.
[32] See FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.2.
[33] See FCCC/CP/2016/10/Add.1.
[34] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1.
[35] A/72/82.

Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017